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NEW JERSEY WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2001

Fatal work injuries totaled 129 in 2001 for New Jersey, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that this year's workplace fatalities were 12 percent higher than the 115 fatal injuries recorded in 2000. The two leading causes of workplace fatalities in 2001 were highway crashes (22) and falls to lower level (22); these two groups accounted for over one-third of the deaths in the State.

The number of highway crashes in New Jersey was at its highest level since 1995 and accounted for 17 percent of fatal work injuries in 2001. (See table A.) Nationally, highway crashes remained the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities when the September 11th attacks were excluded, accounting for 24 percent of fatal work injuries. The number of work-related deaths due to falls to lower level was identical to 2000 in New Jersey and accounted for 17 percent of all workplace fatalities compared to 19 percent in the previous year. Falls to lower levels made up 12 percent of the U.S. total.

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in New Jersey by selected event groups, 1992-2001

	Total	Highway	crashes	Falls to lo	wer level	Homicides		
Year	fatalities	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	138	22	16	17	12	29	21	
1993	145	25	17	27	19	20	14	
1994	114	15	13	13	11	22	19	
1995	118	24	20	13	11	24	20	
1996	100	18	18	7	7	14	14	
1997	101	9	9	16	16	15	15	
1998	103	21	20	14	14	13	13	
1999	104	16	15	21	20	15	14	
2000	115	17	15	22	19	10	9	
2001	129	22	17	22	17	17	13	

Other leading causes of workplace fatalities in 2001 were homicides (17) and pedestrian incidents (14). Over the year, the number of work-related deaths due to homicides increased by seven, but remained well below the high of 29 recorded in 1992 when the census began. Pedestrian accidents, on the other hand, remained unchanged. Together, homicides and pedestrian incidents were responsible for nearly one-fourth of the fatal work injuries in New Jersey. (See table 1.)

Nationwide, a total of 8,786 fatal work injuries were reported in 2001, including 2,886 homicides related to the September 11th terrorist attacks. Excluding these fatalities, the overall workplace fatality count was 5,900 for 2001, down slightly from 2000. In fact, when the fatalities resulting from September 11th were excluded, the 639 workplace homicides was at the lowest level since the census began in 1992; the high was 1,080 in 1994. The number of jobrelated deaths from highway crashes increased 3 percent from 2000 and continued to be the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities. (See table B.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data is available on the BLS Internet site at http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. The Mid-Atlantic Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (215) 597-3282.

Table B.	Fatal occu	pational	iniuries	in the	United	States by	v selected e	vent groups,	1992-2001
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	Total	Highway crashes		Falls to lo	wer level	Homicides		
Year	fatalities	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	1,044	17	
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	1,074	17	
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	1,080	16	
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	1,036	17	
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	927	15	
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	860	14	
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	714	12	
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	651	11	
2000 1	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	677	11	
2001 2	5,900	1,404	24	698	12	639	11	

¹ The BLS national news release issued August 14, 2001, reported a total of 5,915 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2000. Since then, an additional 5 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2000 to 5,920.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in New Jersey:

- Men accounted for 95 percent of the work-related fatalities in the State. Transportation incidents, which include highway, non-highway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for 33 percent of these deaths. (See table 2).
- In New Jersey, 64 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic; 19 percent were Hispanic or Latino; and 13 percent were black, non-Hispanic. The leading cause of death for all of these groups was transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old -- the prime working age group -- made up nearly three-fourths of the State's work-related fatalities in 2001. (See table 2.)
- Ninety percent of workers killed on-the-job in New Jersey worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed. Wage and salary workers died primarily from transportation incidents, while the leading cause of death for the self-employed was contact with objects and equipment. (See table 2.)
- Two industry divisions accounted for almost half of the workplace fatalities in the State -- construction (32) and transportation and public utilities (27). Work-related deaths in construction were mainly due to falls. The leading cause of workplace fatalities in transportation and public utilities was transportation incidents. (See table 3.)

² Total excludes fatalities due to the events of September 11, 2001 which claimed the lives of 2,886 persons in work status.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in New Jersey: (continued)

— Truck drivers (16), construction laborers (12) and non-construction laborers (10) accounted for almost one-third of all work-related deaths in the State. The primary cause of death for truck drivers and non-construction laborers was transportation incidents, while the leading cause of death for construction laborers was falls. (See table 4.)

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2001 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Federal/state

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the New Jersey Department of Health for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

TABLE 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry division, New Jersey, 2001

		Private Industry ² (percent)								
Event or exposure ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Agricul- ture, forestry, and fishing	Mining	Construc- tion	Manufac- turing	Transportation and public utilities	Whole- sale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insur- ance, and real estate	Services
Total	129	7.8		24.8	10.1	20.9	3.9	10.1	2.3	9.3
Transportation incidents	43	9.3		9.3	11.6	41.9				7.0
Highway incident	22				13.6	54.5				
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	12					41.7				
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming	3									
Moving in intersection	5					60.0				
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road	5									
Noncollision incident	3					100.0				
Nonhighway incident, except rail, air, water	4									
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	14					28.6				
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in roadway	5									
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in										
parking lot or non-roadway area	7					42.9				
Water vehicle incident	3									
Assaults and violent acts	25					16.0		32.0		16.0
Homicides	17					10.0		47.1		
Shooting	9							33.3		
Stabbing	6							66.7		
Self-inflicted injury	7							00.7		
	7									
Suicide, attempted suicide	18	16.7	-	27.8	22.2					
Contact with objects and equipment	8	10.7	-	21.0	22.2					
Struck by object	0		-							
Struck by falling object	/									
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	9									
Caught in running equipment or machinery	5									
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects, n.e.c.	4									
Falls	22			77.3						
Fall to lower level	22			77.3						
Fall from floor, dock, or ground level	4			100.0						
Fall through existing floor opening	3			100.0						-
Fall from ladder	4									-
Fall from roof	7			100.0						
Fall from roof edge	4			100.0						
Fall from scaffold, staging	3			100.0						
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	12			33.3						25.0
Contact with electric current	5									
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	3									
Oxygen deficiency, n.e.c.	3									
Drowning, submersion	3									
Fires and explosions	9									
Fireunintended or uncontrolled	5									
Fire in residence, building, or other structure	5									
Explosion	4									

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified."

Data for 2001 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

² Classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, New Jersey, 2001

				Event or (exposure ¹		
Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	129	33.3	19.4	14.0	17.1	9.3	7.0
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴ Self-employed ⁵	116 13	34.5 23.1	19.8 	12.1 30.8	17.2 	9.5 	6.9
Sex							
Men Women	122 7	32.8 42.9		14.8 	18.0 	8.2 	7.4
Age							
Under 16 years							
16 to 17 years							
18 to 19 years	3						
20 to 24 years	6				50.0		
25 to 34 years	23	47.8			13.0		
35 to 44 years	41	31.7	14.6		12.2	7.3	17.1
45 to 54 years	28	21.4	39.3		21.4		
55 to 64 years 65 years and over	20 6	35.0 66.7	20.0			15.0 	
Race or Ethnic Origin							
White, non-Hispanic	82	34.1	17.1	13.4		9.8	8.5
Black, non-Hispanic	17	41.2	29.4		17.6		-
Hispanic or Latino	25	32.0	12.0	24.0	20.0		-
American Indian or Alaska Native							-
Asian or Pacific Islander	3						
Asian	3						
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander							

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Data for 2001 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

 $^{^{2}% \}left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

⁵ Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, New Jersey, 1996 to 2001

Private Industry	Industry ¹	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	20	01
Private Industry	- Industry	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	Number	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	Total	100	101	103	104	115	129	100.0
Agricultural production-crops	Private Industry	85	86	97	96	99	115	89.1
Apricultural services	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	6	3	6	12	9	10	7.8
Lamkscape and horticultural services Law and garden services Omamental sirub and tree services Fishing, hunting, and trapping Commercial fishing 8 - 3 2.3 Shelfish 8 - 3 2.3 Shelfish 8 - 3 2.3 Shelfish 8 3 2.3 Shelfish 8 3 2.3 Shelfish 8 8 - 3 2.3 Shelfish 8 8 8	Agricultural production-crops					3		
Lawn and parteen services Ommental shrub and tree services Singhing, hunting, and trapping Ommental shrub and tree services Shelflish Sh	· ·							
Ornamental shrub and tree services 3	•	4		4		_	5	3.9
Fishing, hunting, and trapping	-					_		
Commercial fishing		3				3		
Shellish								_
Construction							ى 	
General building contractors		17	26	23		25	32	
Residential building construction								
Single-family homes								
Residential buildings, other than single-family	<u> </u>			6	3			
Nonresidential building construction Nonresidential buildings, other than industrial buildings and warehouses Heavy construction, except building Heavy construction, except highway Has been deviced highway Heavy construction, except highway Has been deviced highway H	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
Nonresidential buildings, other than industrial buildings and warehouses -	single-family					3		
Industrial buildings and warehouses	Nonresidential building construction			3				
Heavy construction, except building	Nonresidential buildings, other than							
Highway and street construction				3				
Heavy construction, except highway			4			3		
Special trade contractors	• ,							_
Plumbing, heating, air-conditioning								
Electrical work	•	11	15	12	17			17.1
Masonry, stonework, and plastering 3 - - - - 3 2.3 Masonry, stonesetting, and other stone work - - - - - - 3 2.3 Roofing, siding, and sheet metal work 3 4 5 7 8 5 5 3.9 Structural steel erection - 3 3 - - 3 2.3 Manufacturing 10 9 6 6 11 13 10.1 Stone, clay, and glass products - - - - - 3 2.3 Transportation and public utilities 18 24 26 20 22 27 20.9 Local and interurban passenger transit - 4 3 3 4 5 3.9 Taxicabs - 4 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	• • •					4		2.2
Masonry, stonesetting, and other stone work		3				4		
Work	•						3	2.5
Roofing, siding, and sheet metal work 3							3	23
Miscellaneous special trade contractors 4 5 7 8 5 5 3.9 Structural steel erection - 3 3 - - 3 2.3 Manufacturing 10 9 6 6 11 13 10.1 Stone, clay, and glass products - - - - - - - - - 3 2.3 Transportation and public utilities 18 24 26 20 22 27 20.9 Local and interurban passenger transit - 4 3 3 4 5 3.9 Tracking and butterurban passenger transit - 4 - <t< td=""><td></td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td></t<>		3	4	3		4		
Structural steel erection			5		8	5	5	3.9
Stone, clay, and glass products			3	3			3	2.3
Transportation and public utilities 18 24 26 20 22 27 20.9 Local and interurban passenger transit - 4 3 3 4 5 3.9 Taxicabs - 4 -	Manufacturing	10	9	6	6	11	13	10.1
Local and interurban passenger transit	· · ·							_
Taxicabs Trucking and warehousing Trucking and courier services, except air Trucking, except local Trucking and extorage Trucking		18				22		
Trucking and warehousing 10 12 17 9 13 14 10.9 Trucking and courier services, except air 7 10 16 8 11 13 10.1 Local trucking without storage 4 - 8 5 6 6 4.7 Trucking, except local 3 10 7 3 3 4 3.1 Public warehousing and storage 3 - <td< td=""><td>·</td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>3.9</td></td<>	·			3	3	4	5	3.9
Trucking and courier services, except air 7 10 16 8 11 13 10.1 Local trucking without storage 4 8 5 6 6 4.7 Trucking, except local 3 10 7 3 3 4 3.1 Public warehousing and storage 3								
Local trucking without storage	-				-			
Trucking, except local 3 10 7 3 3 4 3.1 Public warehousing and storage 3	•							
Public warehousing and storage 3								
Water transportation 3 3 -	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
Transportation by air <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>				3				
Wholesale trade 6 10 6 3 5 3.9 Wholesale tradedurable goods 4 7 <t< td=""><td>•</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td>2.3</td></t<>	•						3	2.3
Wholesale tradedurable goods 4 7	Electric, gas, and sanitary services		4					
Miscellaneous durable goods 3	Wholesale trade	6			6	3	5	3.9
Scrap and waste materials 3		4						
Wholesale tradenondurable goods 3 4 3 2.3 Groceries and related products 3	——————————————————————————————————————							
Groceries and related products	•							
Retail trade 15 10 12 11 13 13 10.1 General merchandise stores 3	· ·			3			3	
General merchandise stores 3	·	15	10	10		12	12	
Food stores 3 3				12	11	13	13	10.1
Automotive dealers and service stations Gasoline service stations Eating and drinking places Eating places Miscellaneous retail 3 3 3 3 3 3 6 4.7 3 5 3.9					3			
Gasoline service stations 3 3 3 3 6 4.7 Eating places 3 5 3.9 Miscellaneous retail 5 3 4 3.1			l	3		3		
Eating and drinking places 3 3 6 4.7 Eating places 3 5 3.9 Miscellaneous retail 5 3 4 3.1						3		
Eating places 3 5 3.9 Miscellaneous retail 5 3 4 3.1]			3	3	6	4.7
						3	5	3.9
Miscellaneous shopping goods stores 3 2.3	Miscellaneous retail			5		3	4	3.1
See footnotes at end of table.							3	2.3

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, New Jersey, 1996 to 2001-- Continued

1 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001								
Industry ¹	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000			
·	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	Number	Percent	
Finance, insurance, and real estate				5		3	2.3	
Real estate				4		3	2.3	
Real estate operators and lessors						3	2.3	
Operators of apartment buildings						3	2.3	
Services	12	10	13	11	15	12	9.3	
Hotels and other lodging places					3			
Business services		4			5	4	3.1	
Services to buildings					3			
Auto repair, services, and parking			5					
Engineering and management services	5							
Government ²	15	15	6	8	16	14	10.9	
Federal Government (including resident								
armed forces)		3			8	3	2.3	
Services					6			
Engineering and management services					6			
Engineering and architectural services					6			
Engineering services					6			
Public Administration		3						
State Government	8	3						
Transportation and public utilities	3							
Services	3							
Educational services	3							
Local Government	5	9		7	7	9	7.0	
Services		3						
Educational services		3						
Elementary and secondary schools		3						
Public Administration		6		5		8	6.2	
Justice, public order, and safety		3		5		7	5.4	
Public order and safety		3		5		7	5.4	
Police protection		3		5		4	3.1	
Fire protection						3	2.3	

¹ Classified according to the *Standard Industrial* Classification Manual, 1987

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified."

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

² Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

TABLE 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, New Jersey, 2001

		Event or exposure ² (percent)							
Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Transpor- tation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environ- ments	Fires and explosions		
Total	129	33.3	19.4	14.0	17.1	9.3	7.0		
Managerial and professional specialty	12		66.7						
Executive, administrative, and managerial	9		77.8						
Managers, food serving and lodging establishments	3		100.0						
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	4		75.0						
Professional specialty	3								
Technical, sales, and administrative support	7	57.1							
Sales occupations	6	50.0							
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	4								
Service occupations	14	21.4	35.7			21.4			
Protective service occupations	9	33.3	33.3						
Firefighting and fire prevention occupations, including su	3								
Firefighting occupations	3								
Police and detectives, including supervisors	3								
Police and detectives, public services	3								
Guards, including supervisors	3								
Service occupations, except protective and household	4								
Farming, forestry, and fishing	13	38.5		38.5					
Other agricultural and related occupations	6								
Related agricultural occupations	5								
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	3								
Fishers, hunters, and trappers	3								
Fishers, including vessel captains and officers	3								
Precision production, craft, and repair	27	14.8		11.1	44.4	14.8			
Mechanics and repairers	3								
Construction trades	22	13.6			54.5	13.6			
Supervisors, construction occupations	7				57.1				
Supervisors, n.e.c.	5								
Construction trades, except supervisors	15				53.3	20.0			
Roofers	3								
Structural metal workers	4				100.0				
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	54	46.3	9.3	16.7	14.8	5.6	7.4		
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4			75.0					
Machine operators and tenders, except precision	3			100.0					
Machine operators, assorted materials	3			100.0					
Machine operators, not specified	3			100.0					
Transportation and material moving occupations	23	69.6	13.0						
Motor vehicle operators	20	70.0	15.0						
Truck drivers	16	68.8							
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	27	33.3		18.5	25.9				
Construction laborers	12			25.0	50.0				
Freight, stock, and material handlers	3	100.0							
Laborers, except construction	10	40.0							

¹ Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

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n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified."

Data for 2001 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.